

II. CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Previously Presented) A portable device comprising:

control means for controlling the operation of the device;

tone means that are controlled by the control means and that produce sound electroacoustically;

which control means are arranged to give feedback on the operation of the device by using a tone produced by the tone means; and

determining means for determining the volume of background noise of the usage environment of the device, on the basis of which background noise volume the control means are arranged to automatically adjust tone features including at least one of a tone frequency and a tone duration that can be sensed by hearing, such that the tone is distinguished from background noise by a human hearing sense.

2. (Previously Presented) A portable device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the control means automatically adjusts the tone frequency and the duration.

3. (Original) A portable device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the determining means are arranged to determine the volume of background noise at different frequencies, and the control means

are arranged to produce a tone particularly at such frequencies where the volume of background noise is low.

4. (Previously Presented) A portable device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the tone features include tone volume.

5. (Original) A portable device as claimed in claim 4, wherein the control means are arranged to produce a tone that is louder than background noise.

6. (Previously Presented) A portable device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the tone features include the moment of time at which the tone is produced.

7. (Original) A portable device as claimed in claim 6, wherein the determining means are arranged to determine the moment at which a sudden background noise of short duration occurs, and the control means are arranged to produce a tone nonsimultaneously with the moment at which background noise occurs.

8. (Previously Cancelled)

9. (Original) A portable device as claimed in claim 8, wherein the control means are arranged to form a tone from notes and to make the individual notes sound longer when background noise is getting louder.

10. (Original) A portable device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the determining means comprise conversion means for performing an acousto-electric conversion for background noise and the control means, which control means are arranged to determine the volume of background noise by analyzing an electric signal representing background noise.

11. (Original) A portable device as claimed in claim 10, wherein the conversion means are a microphone.

12. (Original) A portable device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the tone means are a loudspeaker or a piezoelectricity functioning circuit.

13. (Original) A portable device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the control means are arranged to receive a control relating to at least one of the tone features that can be sensed by a human hearing sense and controlling the tone production carried out by the user interface of the portable device.

14. (Original) A portable device as claimed in claim 13, wherein those tone frequency ranges that are automatically selectable for the control means are selected by the control.

15. (Original) A portable device as claimed in claim 13, wherein those tone durations that are automatically selectable for the control means are selected by the control.

16. (Original) A portable device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the portable device is a subscriber terminal of a telecommunication system.

17. (Currently Amended) A portable device comprising:

control means for controlling the operation of the device;

a user interface in connection with the control means;

tone means that are controlled by the control means and that produce sound electroacoustically;

which control means are arranged to give feedback on the operation of the device by using a tone produced by the tone means; and

the control means are arranged to receive a control affecting the tone frequency and/or duration at least one of a tone frequency and a tone duration and controlling the tone production carried out by the user interface, and to adjust the tone frequency and/or duration the at least one of a tone frequency and a tone duration according to the control.

18. (Original) A portable device as claimed in claim 17, wherein the tone means are a loudspeaker or a piezoelectrically functioning circuit.

19. (Original) A portable device as claimed in claim 17, wherein the portable device is a subscriber terminal of a telecommunication system.

20. (Previously Presented) A method of providing a user with information on the operation of a portable device, the method comprising:

detecting an event that interests the user and concerns the operation of the device;

determining the volume of background noise in the usage environment of the device;

adjusting automatically tone features including at least one of a tone frequency and a tone duration that can be sensed by hearing such that the tone is distinguished from background noise by a human hearing sense;

giving feedback on the operation of the device by using the tone.

21. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 20, wherein the tone frequency and tone duration are automatically adjusted.

22. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 21, further comprising:

determining the volume of background noise at different frequencies and producing a tone particularly at such frequencies where the volume of background noise is low.

23. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 20, wherein the tone features include tone volume.

24. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 23, further comprising:

producing a tone that is louder than background noise.

25. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 20, wherein the tone features include the moment of time at which the tone is produced.

26. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 25, further comprising:

determining the moment at which a sudden background noise of short duration occurs, and producing a tone nonsimultaneously with the moment at which background noise occurs.

27. (Previously Cancelled)

28. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 27, further comprising:

forming a tone from notes and making the individual notes sound longer when background noise is getting louder.

29. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 20, further comprising:

performing an acousto-electric conversion for background noise and determining the volume of background noise by analyzing an electric signal representing background noise.

30. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 20, further comprising:

receiving a control relating to at least one of the tone features that can be sensed by hearing and controlling the tone production carried out by the user interface of the portable device.

31. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 30, further comprising:

selecting those tone frequency ranges by means of the control to which the tone can be adjusted automatically.

32. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 30, further comprising:

selecting those tone durations by the control that can be adjusted automatically for the tone.

33. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 20, wherein the portable device is a subscriber terminal of a telecommunication system.

34. (Currently Amended) A method of providing a user with information on the operation of a portable device, the method comprising:

detecting an event that interests the user and concerns the operation of the device;

receiving a control affecting a tone frequency and/or duration at least one of a tone frequency and a tone duration and controlling the tone production from a user interface of the device;

adjusting the tone frequency and/or duration at least one of a tone frequency and a tone duration according to the control;

giving feedback on the operation of the device by using the tone.

35. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 34, wherein the portable device is a subscriber terminal of a telecommunication system.

36. (Previously Presented) The portable device of claim 1 further comprising means for determining a frequency range of the background noise, wherein the control means is adapted to automatically adjust the tone to be in a frequency range that is inverse to the frequency range of the background noise.

37. (Previously Presented) The portable device of claim 1 wherein if a frequency range of the background noise is determined to be low, a frequency range of the tone is adjusted to be high.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20 further comprising:

determining a frequency range of the background noise;

adjusting the tone frequency so that the frequency range of the tone is opposite to the frequency range of the background noise.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20 further comprising:

determining duration of the background noise;

if the duration is short, producing the tone a predetermined period after and end of the duration of the background noise.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20 further comprising adjusting the tone duration to be longer if the volume of the background noise is louder.

41. (Previously Presented) A portable device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the determining means are arranged to determine the volume of background noise at different frequencies, and the control means are arranged to produce a tone particularly at such frequencies where the volume of background noise is low.

42. (Previously Presented) The portable device of claim 17 wherein the control affects and adjusts both the tone frequency and duration.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34 wherein the received control affects and adjusts the tone frequency and duration.